

REMARKS

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. Applicants do not agree with or acquiesce to this rejection, and applicants do not believe that any change to any of the claims is necessary, but, in the interest of expediting prosecution and moving to allowance as soon as possible, applicants hereby amend independent claim 1 in a minor way and as suggested in the final action.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 1-11, 15, and 17 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application Number 2000-128031 to Satoshi ("Satoshi") in view of Katta (US Pub. 2004/0085447) ("Katta") and U.S. Patent Number 4,420,238 to Felix ("Felix"). Claims 12-14 and 19 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over Satoshi, Katta, and Felix, and further in view of U.S. Patent Number 4,772,942 to Tuck ("Tuck"). Claim 16 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over Satoshi, Katta, and Felix, and further in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,314,364 to Nakamura ("Nakamura"). Claim 18 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over Satoshi, Katta, and Felix, and further in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,891,563 to Schofield et al. ("Schofield") and U.S. Patent Number 6,422,062 to King et al. ("King"). Applicants do not agree with or acquiesce to any of these claim rejections, and applicants make no claim changes in response to any of these rejections.

These rejections are very similar to the prior rejections under 35 USC § 103(a). The only significant difference between the prior rejections under 35 USC § 103(a) and the current rejections under 35 USC § 103(a) is that King has been replaced by Felix as one of the three primary references. Applicants respectfully submit that replacing King with Felix does not render any of the claims unpatentable.

Independent claim 1 recites, in part, a perspective image which is panned or tilted. The perspective image is derived from an image with an omniazimuth view field area therearound, and that image is obtained by at least one omniazimuth visual sensor including an optical system. The optical system includes a hyperboloidal mirror.

Satoshi may disclose that an image of a 360 degree viewfield is captured by a camera from a hyperbolic mirror. But, Satoshi at least fails to teach or suggest that a perspective image derived from that 360 degree viewfield is panned or tilted.

Felix may disclose that an image is panned or tilted, but Felix at least fails to teach or suggest panning or tilting a perspective image derived from a 360 degree viewfield. Felix fails to teach or suggest that the camera 16 captures a view of 360 degrees therearound.

Each of Satoshi and Felix fails to teach or suggest at least panning or tilting of a perspective image where that perspective image is derived from an image with an omniazimuth view field area therearound, and thus the combination of these two references would not have resulted in at least that aspect of independent claim 1.

Katta at least fails to teach or suggest this same aspect of independent claim 1, and thus Katta adds nothing in this regard if combined with Satoshi and/or Felix. Applicants thus submit that the combination of Satoshi, Felix, and Katta would not have resulted in at least this one aspect of independent claim 1. Consequently, claim 1 and all of the other claims which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 are patentable over any combination of Satoshi, Katta, and Felix.

At cols. 3 and 4 (particularly col. 4, lines 18-34), Felix indicates that panning and tilting of a captured image is achieved as a result of a mechanical or physical movement of a camera. Applicants submit that Satoshi does not disclose moving a camera. Satoshi indicates that the camera and the mirror should be aligned. See, for example, the abstract of Satoshi and also paragraph [0087] of Satoshi. Felix and Satoshi thus are at odds with respect to moving the

camera. One of ordinary skill would not have modified Satoshi to allow camera movement as disclosed in Felix because that would have rendered the system of Satoshi unsatisfactory for its intended purpose. If the camera in Satoshi is moved to pan or tilt, then the required alignment with the mirror will be lost.

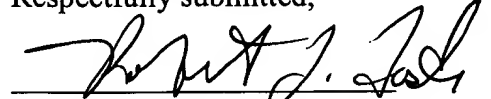
As for the rejections of various dependent claims over the Satoshi/Katta/Felix combination and one or more of Tuck, Nakamura, Schofield, and King, applicants traverse those dependent claim rejections as well. None of Tuck, Nakamura, Schofield, and King teaches or suggests panning or tilting of a perspective image where that perspective image is derived from an image with an omniazimuth view field area therearound. Given this, no combination of any of these seven references (i.e., Satoshi, Katta, Felix, Tuck, Nakamura, Schofield, and King) would have resulted in at least this one aspect of independent claim 1. Consequently, claim 1 and all of the other claims which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 are patentable over any combination or sub-combination of Satoshi, Katta, Felix, Tuck, Nakamura, Schofield, and King.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicants request entry of this paper, reconsideration, withdrawal of all rejections, and allowance of all pending claims (i.e., claims 1-19) in due course.

Dated: September 22, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



Robert J. Tosti, Reg. No. 35,393
Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP
P.O. Box 55874
Boston, Massachusetts 02205
Direct: (617) 517-5584
Attorney for Applicants

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